

**EVALUATING THE PERFORMANCE OF SAHIWAL BREED OF
CATTLE IN DIFFERENT STATE FARMS LOCATED IN DRY
AND INTERMEDIATE ZONES OF SRI LANKA**



BY

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ABSTRACT

A study was conducted to assess the productive and reproductive performance of Sahiwal breed of cattle Sri Lanka. Data were collected on milk yield per lactation, lactation length, gestation period, number of service per conception, calving interval, calving rate, dry period, age at first calving and birth weight. The milk yield per lactation (1131.5 ± 707.5 liter), lactation length (247.44 ± 95.20 days), gestation period (285.16 ± 10.69 days), number of service per conception (1.5347 ± 0.742), calving interval (436.89 ± 60.04 days), calving rate (1.1280 ± 0.3805), dry period (98.56 ± 20.52 days), age at first calving (44.287 ± 8.110 months) and birth weight (20.637 ± 2.929 kg) were estimated as the productive and reproductive parameters. In addition two farms were compared based on the mean value of the performance. Parameters milk yield per lactation, lactation length and age at first calving were significantly differed ($P < 0.05$) between the farms. However gestation period, number of service per conception, calving interval, calving rate, dry period, birth weight were not differed significantly ($P < 0.05$) between the farms. The heritability of the economic traits such as milk yield (0.19), lactation length (0.08), gestation period (0.13), number of service per conception (0.80), calving interval (0.36), calving rate (0.22), dry period (0.68), age at first calving (0.33) and birth weight (0.22) were estimated and most of them were closer to the standard values. Therefore, there is a potential to genetically improve the performance of Sahiwal herd through proper selection and planning of breeding program.

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